



Bloody Sunday 50th Anniversary Marked in Selma

President Barack Obama speaks near the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Saturday, March 7, 2015, in Selma, Ala. This weekend marked the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," a civil rights march in which protestors were beaten by police at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, in Selma. (AP Photo/Bill Frakes)

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Democratic ally urges Clinton to explain her email actions



Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at a university conference sponsored by their Clinton Global Initiative at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla.

(AP Photo/Gaston De Cardenas)

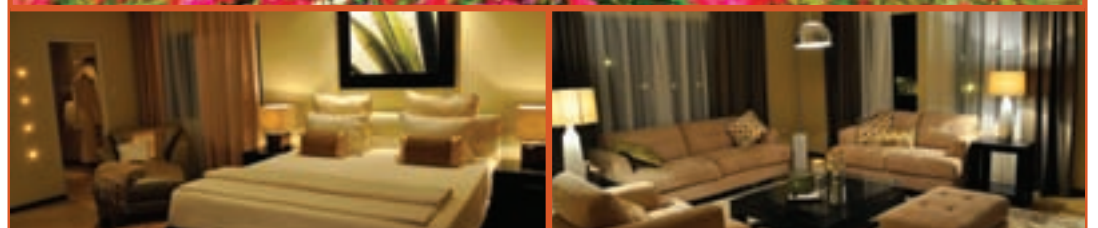
WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton should fully explain her actions involving the use of a private, nongovernment email account when she was the country's top diplomat, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein said on Sunday, becoming the first major Democrat to urge Clinton to share more details of the private account. Feinstein said the former first lady and New York senator "needs to step up and come out and say exactly what the situation was," adding that from "this point on, the silence is going to hurt her." Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, also avoided the controversy Sunday morning.

Asked whether his wife was treated fairly, Bill Clinton replied, "I'm not the one to judge that. I have an opinion, but I have a bias." "I shouldn't be making news on this," he said, in remarks reported on CNN.com. Hillary Clinton has been criticized for her use of the private email account and whether she complied with federal rules requiring officials to retain their communications. Clinton says that she's turned over all relevant emails — totaling 55,000 pages — to the State Department for review. Last week, the House committee investigating the deadly 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, issued subpoenas for Clinton's emails,

and its chairman said Sunday, "We're not entitled to everything. I don't want everything. I just want everything related to Libya and Benghazi." Republican Rep. Trey Gowdysaid "there are gaps

of months and months and months" in the emails the committee had previously received. Clinton is considered the front-runner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, but has not entered the race yet.

So far, a tweet has been her only comment on the email controversy. She did not address the issue Saturday night during an event in Coral Gables, Florida, for the Clinton Global Initiative University. □

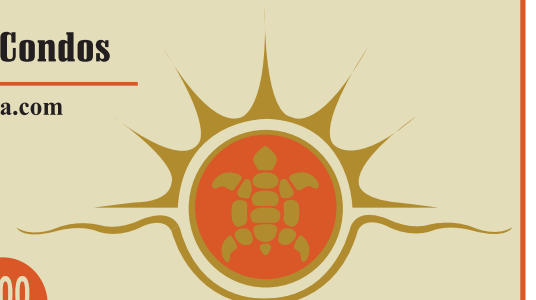


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Selma

**KIM CHANDLER
PHILLIP LUCAS
Associated Press
SELMA, Alabama (AP)**

— Thousands of people crowded an Alabama bridge on Sunday to commemorate a bloody confrontation 50 years ago between police and peaceful protesters that was a landmark in the civil rights movement and helped bring about the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

A day after President Barack Obama had walked atop the Edmund Pettus Bridge, many jammed shoulder to shoulder, many unable to move, as they recalled the civil rights struggle.

Police said at least 15,000 to 20,000 people had joined the crush on and around the small bridge. Many came from around the country for several events commemorating the event.

William Baldwin, 69, of Montgomery, Alabama,



President Barack Obama, center, walks as he holds hands with Amelia Boynton Robinson, who was beaten during "Bloody Sunday," as they and the first family and others including Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga, walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala. for the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," a landmark event of the civil rights movement, Saturday, March 7, 2015. From front left are Marian Robinson, Sasha Obama, first lady Michelle Obama, Boynton and Adelaide Sanford.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

brought his two grandsons, ages 11 and 15, to the bridge Sunday so they could grasp the importance of the historic march he took part in a half century earlier.

"They're going to take this struggle on and we have to understand the price that was paid for them to have what they have now," Baldwin said. "It wasn't granted to them, it was earned by blood, sweat and tears."

Some sang hymns and others held signs, such as "Black lives matter, all lives matter." The crowd was so large that many appeared barely able to move as they peacefully sought to make their way across.

On March 7, 1965, police beat and tear-gassed marchers at the foot of the bridge in Selma in a spasm of violence that shocked the nation.

The attack help build momentum for Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act later that year.

Earlier Sunday, Selma officials paid tribute to the late President Lyndon B. Johnson for the Voting Rights

Act.

The attack on demonstrators preceded a Selma-to-Montgomery march, which occurred two weeks later in 1965.

Luci Baines Johnson accepted the award on behalf of her father, saying it meant so much to see him honored.

"You remember how deeply Daddy cared about social justice and how hard he worked to make it happen," she told a crowd Sunday morning. Several hundred people gave her a standing ovation and some chanted, "L.B.J., L.B.J."

She said what happened in Selma changed the world, adding that she witnessed the painful injustice of segregation as a child in Texas. An anniversary march from Selma to Montgomery is set to begin Monday morning and culminate with a rally at the Alabama Capitol Friday afternoon.

On Saturday, Obama joined civil rights leaders and others at the bridge and talked about progress in race relations since the 1960s. □



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Justice Department's Ferguson report resonates across the US

GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Felix Vargas read the Justice Department's report on Ferguson, Missouri, and thought some of it sounded awfully familiar: a mostly white police department overseeing a mostly minority town; questionable uses of force; officers ill-equipped to deal with mentally ill residents. They're the same issues his heavily Hispanic community, the agricultural Washington state city of Pasco, has confronted since the fatal police shooting of an immigrant farmworker last month.

"We know Pasco is only the most recent area where this has happened," said Vargas, chairman of a local Hispanic business organization called Consejo Latino. "We have a national problem. We continue to struggle with this issue of policing."

Ferguson has become a symbol of the tensions between minorities and police departments nationwide since Darren Wilson,

doing, but in its report last week, it made numerous allegations against the city's police department that included racial dispari-

Though the report centered on Ferguson, its findings have resonated beyond the St. Louis suburbs as residents in some communities across the U.S. say they feel they face the same struggles with their police departments and city leadership.

President Barack Obama addressed the issue Friday on the eve of the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" when police beat scores of people at a civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. While not typical, the issues raised in the Ferguson report also were not isolated, he said. On Saturday, protesters took to the streets in Madison, Wisconsin, after the fatal shooting of an unarmed black 19-year-old by a white police officer, chanting "Black Lives Matter." Authorities said the police officer fired his weapon after he was assaulted. The officer was placed on ad-

ministrative leave pending results of an investigation by an outside state agency.

"These communities are vulnerable because they don't believe the law is there to protect them," said Kevin Jones, a black, 36-year-old Iraq war veteran who lives in Saginaw, Michigan, a once predominantly white city that's now about half black. He recalled being pulled over and arrested in 2011 for having his music too loud in the wrong part of town. The noise complaint was dropped when an officer failed to show for his hearing, but Jones said he still had to pay to get his car back.

Saginaw's police force, which is three-quarters white, came under scrutiny after officers killed a homeless, mentally ill, black man in 2012 when he refused to drop a knife. □



A protest sign is displayed in front of City Hall in Pasco, Wash., the city where Antonio Zambrano-Montes, an unarmed man who was running away from police at a crowded intersection, was fatally shot by police in February, 2015.

(AP Photo/Nicholas K. Geranios,)

a white officer, shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, last summer. The Justice Department cleared Wilson of criminal wrong-

ties in arrests, bigotry and profit-driven law enforcement — essentially using the black community as a piggy bank to support the city's budget through fines.



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Immigration ruling shows lawyers playing venue shopping odds

SETH ROBBINS
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A federal judge's ruling last month blocking President Barack Obama's immigration executive action lays bare a pervasive practice in federal district courts: venue shopping. It is a game of odds in which lawyers pick a court to file their case where a judge or case law is likely to be more favorable. Law experts say venue shopping is commonplace in politically-sensitive cases as a way to advance a case toward the ultimate goal of a hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Everybody does this to the extent they can," said Stephen Yale-Loehr, an immigration professor at Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York.

When lawyers for Texas filed suit in Brownsville to block the president's executive action on immigration, they knew they had a 50 percent chance the case would be given to U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen, an appointee of President George W. Bush who had previously spoken scathingly of Obama's immigration policies.

Hanen, who was assigned the case through an automated system, is one of



In this 2005 photo, U.S. Southern District Judge Andrew S. Hanen, left, joins with Filemon B. Vela, Jr. and Blanca Vela for the Pledge of Allegiance during the United States Courthouse naming ceremony in Brownsville, Texas.

(AP Photo/Brad Doherty)

only two judges in that division of the Southern District of Texas, so he hears half of all civil cases. The other is U.S. District Judge Hilda Tagle, an appointee of Democratic President Bill Clinton.

Not all district courts have just two judges.

"They knew they would strike gold if they got in front of Judge Hanen," said Kica Matos, spokeswoman for the Fair Immigration Reform Movement, a national advocacy organization for immigrants. "This is a judge who has gone out of his way to express his anti-immigrant sentiments."

On Feb. 16, Texas and 25 other states opposed to Obama's action got exactly what they wanted. Hanen issued a preliminary injunction halting the orders, which would have spared as many as 5 million people who are in the U.S.

illegally from deportation.

Venue selection has long been used by the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in cases seeking wide-ranging reforms, said Georgene Vairo, a professor of law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. More recently the tactic has been adopted by conservative groups, she said. It was probably a factor in the mammoth job discrimination lawsuit filed against Wal-Mart by 1.5 million women claiming unfair pay and promotion practices, Vairo said.

That case was pursued in the California courts, where it would be heard by the liberal-leaning 9th Circuit on appeal.

The 9th Circuit ruled in favor of the women, though the Supreme Court in 2011 did not. □

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Secret Service briefly locks down White House



Police and fire vehicles are seen along 15th street NW near the White House, near a vendor cart that caught on fire Saturday, March 7, 2015 in Washington. Secret Service spokesman Brian Leary says a vendor cart caught fire around 10 a.m. at 15th and G streets. He says firefighters responded and contained the blaze.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

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WASHINGTON - The White House was put under a security lockdown Saturday morning by the Secret Service after a bomb-sniffing dog alerted its handlers to examine a car not far from the presidential residence and offices, a spokesman for the agency said. The lockdown, which started around 10:15 a.m.

and forced the closing of several roads, also followed a fire at a food vendor cart just outside the White House perimeter. Secret Service officials did not disclose whether the two incidents were related. Shortly after noon, the Secret Service said the vehicle had been determined not to be a threat, and the fire department had contained the smoke and fire at the vendor cart.

Streets around the White House were reopened, a spokesman said.

President Barack Obama and his family were in the White House at the time, preparing to leave for a trip to Selma, Alabama, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Obama and his family left, a bit behind schedule, in a motorcade rather than taking the usual helicopter ride to Andrews Air Force Base to board Air Force One. Brief lockdowns at the White House are not uncommon, and are often caused by the discovery of an unattended package near the grounds. But in recent months, the Secret Service has been under intense scrutiny for its

response to more serious threats, including a drone that crashed on the White House lawn and a man who jumped the White House fence, ran through the North Portico doors and made it into the East Room. On Saturday, Secret Service officers cordoned off Lafayette Square across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House using barricades and police tape to divert pedestrians and other visitors. Officers also stopped bystanders from crossing several other nearby streets. Members of the news media working in the briefing room, which is between the White House residence and the West Wing, were locked in the building after hearing a loud noise. □

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Russian court charges 2, detains 3 others in Nemtsov killing

JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Five men were behind bars Sunday either charged or suspected in the killing of Kremlin critic Boris Nemtsov, but details remained unclear in the case that has shaken Russia's marginalized and struggling opposition movement.

The five appeared in a Moscow court, where two of them were charged in connection with the shooting of Nemtsov as he walked across a bridge near the Kremlin on Feb. 27. The other three were remanded to jail pending the filing of charges, which Russian law says must be done within 10 days.

Russian news reports meanwhile cited unnamed sources as saying

another suspect had killed himself with a grenade after police blocked his apartment on Saturday in Grozny, the capital of the republic of Chechnya. There was no official comment from Moscow on the reports, but Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov appeared to partially confirm it Sunday.

One of the judges in the two separate hearings said suspect Zaur Dadaev had acknowledged involvement, but Dadaev did not admit guilt in the courtroom, according to state-run and independent news agencies in Russia. The other suspect who was charged, Anzor Gubashev, denied guilt, the reports said.

The three others include Gubashev's younger



Police escort Zaur Dadaev, center, one of five suspects in the killing of Boris Nemtsov from a court room in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, March 8, 2015. Russian news agencies said Sunday one of the suspects in the killing of leading opposition figure Boris Nemtsov has admitted involvement in the crime.

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

brother Shagid, along with Khamzad Bakhaev and Tamerlan Eskerkhanov, state news agency Tass reported.

All five are from Chechnya or other parts of the restive North Caucasus, according to news agencies. Their origin raises a potentially sensitive issue, given the significant animosity for Caucasus groups among ethnic Russians.

Chechnya suffered two intense wars over the past two decades between Russian forces and separatist rebels increasingly under the sway of fundamentalist Islam. That reinforced the stereotype among many Russians of Chechens as violent extremists.

Kadyrov, the current Chechen president, has himself imposed many Islamic rules on Chechnya, including the wearing of headscarves by women, but is also a vehement loyalist of Russian President Vladimir Putin and has

blamed Nemtsov's killing on Western security services.

Kadyrov is widely criticized by human rights groups for violence against dissidents, including abducting and killing them. Dadaev, one of the suspects charged Sunday, had been an officer in the Chechen police troops, reports cited the head of the security council in neighboring Ingushetia as saying.

Kadyrov on Sunday said on Instagram that Dadaev had left the police troops under unclear circumstances. He described him as a "deeply religious man" offended by Nemtsov's comments after the attack on the French satirical publication Charlie Hebdo. Russia's Investigative Committee had suggested Islamic extremism as a possible motive for Nemtsov's killing.

He also praised a man called Beslan Shavanov as a "brave warrior." That

was the name given in the unsourced reports of the suspect who allegedly killed himself in Grozny. Kadyrov's post did not give details, but said Shavanov "perished the previous day during an attempt to detain him."

Dadaev and the Gubashevs were arrested in Ingushetia on Saturday, and the other two suspects in suburban Moscow before dawn on Sunday, officials said.

Law enforcement officials have asserted the guilt of all five, but have not released any details of how they allegedly were involved in the killing of Nemtsov.

The 55-year-old Nemtsov, a former deputy prime minister who became one of Putin's most outspoken detractors, was killed a few hours after he had made a radio appearance denouncing Putin for "mad, aggressive" policies in Ukraine. □

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5 dead, 2 expats, in shooting at restaurant in Mali capital

BABA AHMED
Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — A masked gunman sprayed bullets in a restaurant popular with foreigners in Mali's capital this weekend, killing five people including a French person and a Belgian national, officials and witnesses said.

Al Mourabitoun, or The Sentinels, a northern Mali jihadist group allied with al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the attack, according to the Mauritanian news website Al-Akhbar. It often receives messages from Malian extremists.

Nine people were wounded including two experts at the U.N. mission, said the U.N. stabilization mission in Mali in a statement. The two are Swiss soldiers and are being flown to Senegal for treatment, said the Swiss Defense Ministry.

Witness Ibrahim Coulibaly described the attack.

"I saw a masked person with a great weapon like a machine gun go up the stairs to the bar and at first

I thought it was a joke, but a few second later, I heard a first shot. People started shouting and then came a burst of gunfire. It was then that I realized it was serious. I hid," said Coulibaly.

"Then the hooded man came down the stairs, past the bar, and he saw the Belgian citizen who was getting into his car and he shot him," said Coulibaly. "And then the attacker got in a car and left. He did not talk to anyone, he said nothing."

Another witness, Hamadou Dolo, gave a different account, saying he saw two gunmen run out of the establishment and jump into a car driven by an accomplice.

Mali's president and prime minister visited the scene and called it "a criminal and terrorist act." A government statement said an investigation has been opened and pledged to bring the perpetrators to book.

France and Belgium condemned the attack at La

Terrasse, the restaurant and bar in Bamako, and their foreign ministers confirmed the deaths of their nationals.

Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders denounced

everything must be done to find those responsible for this crime."

The Belgian killed was a security officer for the European Union, said EU president Donald Tusk. "The

and its people."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, currently visiting France, called the attack an act of cowardice. "In the end, that only strengthens our resolve to fight



The nightclub that was attacked by gunmen is seen at rear as armed forces provide security in Bamako, Mali. A masked gunman sprayed bullets around a nightclub popular with foreigners in Mali's capital this weekend, killing at least five people including a French person and a Belgian national, officials and witnesses said. (AP Photo/Harouna Traore)

a "cowardly act of terror." French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said the Frenchman killed was 31 years old. Fabius said "ev-

European Union will not be intimidated by terrorism, at home or abroad," said Tusk. "We will remain steadfast in support of Mali

terrorism in all of its forms wherever it exists." Kerry said such acts don't intimidate but have the "exact opposite effect." □

With Boko Haram tie to Islamic State, African fight is newly urgent

ERIC SCHMITT

© 2015 New York Times

MAO, Chad - An oath of allegiance from Boko Haram, the Nigeria-based militant group, to the Islamic State on Saturday reinforces Western fears that the terrorist group is growing beyond its base in Iraq and Syria. These worries have prompted U.S. and allied commandos to rush to train African counterterrorism troops to fight

extremists on the continent.

The expanding effort here on the edge of the Sahara to fight militancies like Boko Haram comes as the group has kidnapped schoolgirls, slaughtered thousands of people, and has expanded its attacks from Nigeria into Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

"When your neighbor's house is burning, you have to put it out, because if not,

yours is next," said Lt. Col. Brahim Mahanat, a Chadian army officer who spoke during the Pentagon's annual military exercise with 1,200 African troops, U.S. Army Special Forces and other Western commandos, which ends Monday. More than any exercise in the past decade, this year's training is bumping up against real-world operations. The Chadian capital of Ndjamena is just

30 miles from militant-held territory in Nigeria, and Boko Haram has vowed revenge since Chad began cross-border attacks against the militants. Police officers and army troops have stepped up patrols in the capital in response to increased risks.

"Boko Haram is not just a threat to our country or to Africa," said Brig. Gen. Zakaria Ngobongue, a senior Chadian officer who has

trained in France and at Hurlburt Field, Florida, and is overseeing this year's exercise. "They are an international threat."

In a reflection of heightened U.S. and European concerns, Army Special Forces, as well as other military instructors from several Western countries, are training African troops in Chad to conduct combat patrols and to foil terrorist ambushes. □

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Iraqis living under IS rule fear liberation means reprisals

SAMEER N. YACOB
MUHANAD AL-SALEH

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Mosul resident Mohammed Younis says he had nothing to do with the Islamic State group's capture of his city or its mass killings, beheadings and other atrocities -- but that may not be enough to spare him if the extremists are driven out. A letter left on his doorstep by a shadowy group calling itself the Freeman of Mosul said "vengeance is coming," and contained vague threats of eye-for-an-eye retribution. Dozens of other Mosul families have reported similar threats, and as Iraqi forces backed by feared Shiite militias gradually push up from Baghdad into the Sunni heartland, some fear the retreat of the extremist group could set off a new round of violence. Younis thinks he was tar-

geted because his cousin is a suspected Islamic State militant. "Because of the acts of a criminal

nobody will listen when payback time comes," he added, using the Arabic acronym for the group.



Fighters from the Islamic State group parade in a commandeered Iraqi security forces armored vehicle on the main road at the northern city of Mosul, Iraq. The extremist group has deliberately targeted the country's Shiite majority as well as religious minorities, sharpening sectarian tensions that could drive future reprisal attacks. (AP Photo)

cousin, me and some of my relatives will be killed or displaced," he said. "We have nothing to do with Daesh, but I think that

Iraqi troops and Iranian-backed Shiite militias launched a long-awaited offensive this month aimed at capturing Saddam Hus-

sein's hometown of Tikrit, a Sunni bastion on the Tigris river whose capture would pave the way for an assault on Mosul, which could come as soon as next month.

Iraq's government has sought to rally Sunni support, hoping to recruit powerful tribes to drive out the extremists and reunite the country. But past offensives have been followed by threats and reports of vicious sectarian reprisals. Last week, New York-based Human Rights Watch called on the Iraqi government to protect civilians in Tikrit and allow them to flee combat zones. Its statement noted "numerous atrocities" against Sunni civilians by pro-government militias and security forces, ranging from "summary executions, revenge killings, or other abuses."

Sunni farmer Marwan al-Bayati fled his home to the nearby city of Kirkuk when Shiite militiamen approached his militant-held village last September. As he prepared to return a month ago, he received anonymous phone calls warning that death awaited him if he and his family returned. "When I told the callers that I am a peaceful man who did not take part in any killings, the answer I got was that my relatives are supporting Daesh, which means my properties are their war trophies," he told The Associated Press. The reprisals thus far pale in comparison to the misdeeds of the Islamic State group, which has massacred hundreds of Syrian

and Iraqi soldiers, beheaded Western journalists and aid workers, and imposed a violent interpretation of Islamic Law in which people have been beheaded, mutilated or crucified in public squares. The extremist group has deliberately targeted the country's Shiite majority as well as religious minorities, sharpening sectarian tensions that could drive future reprisal attacks.

After Islamic State fighters killed hundreds of Yazidis -- a religious minority the extremists view as apostates -- and enslaved hundreds of Yazidi women and girls, the community began arming itself. In January a newly formed Yazidi militia, which works closely with U.S.-backed Kurdish forces in the north, stormed the Sunni village of Snuny, killing 11 men and briefly abducting several women. Sunnis and Yazidis had by and large co-existed peacefully before the Islamic State group's blitz across northern Iraq last summer. But a Yazidi fighter, who spoke to The Associated Press anonymously for fear of retribution, said those days are over. "We don't mind if we kill every one of our Sunni neighbors," he said. "We will never trust them again." Sunnis may have more to fear from the thousands of Shiite militiamen taking part in the latest offensive. Last year Amnesty International said Shiite militias have captured and killed Sunni militants and those alleged to have supported them. □



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Venezuela to install finger scanners to tackle shortages



A woman waits in line to check out at the Dia a Dia supermarket in the Propatria neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela. Venezuela will begin installing some 20,000 fingerprint scanners at supermarkets nationwide in a bid to stamp out hoarding and panic buying.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

HANNAH DREIR
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela will begin installing some 20,000 fingerprint scanners at supermarkets nationwide in a bid to stamp out hoarding and panic buying, which the government blames for long lines and widespread shortages of basic goods. The oil-rich nation has been selectively rolling out

the rationing system for months at state-run supermarkets along the western border with Colombia, where smuggling of price-controlled goods is a major problem. On Saturday, President Nicolas Maduro said that seven large private retail chains had voluntarily agreed to install the scanners. "I ask for the the compre-

hension of all of Venezuela, to understand this problem, because there is a lot of manipulation taking place," Maduro said at the inauguration of a state-run supermarket. Economists say the effort is bound to fail. They blame decade-old price controls for destroying local manufacturing and attracting smugglers who can resell the goods on the black market and in Colombia

for huge gains.

In recent days, those profits have become juicier as a result of Venezuela's tanking currency. The bolivar has slid 35 percent in the past two weeks on the black market and now trades at nearly one-fortieth the official rate used to import food, according to DolarToday, a website that tracks the illegal rate based on currency trades along the border. The fall

of world oil prices by nearly half since November is also diminishing the supply of dollars available to import everything from milk to cars. Crude oil accounts for 95 percent of Venezuela's exports. As Venezuela's economic crisis deepens the government is increasingly lashing out at its opponents and the United States, which it says is trying to sow instability and set the stage for a coup. □



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Colombia, rebels announce plan to remove land mines

ANNE GARCIA
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Colombia's government and the country's biggest rebel movement announced an agreement Saturday to begin a pilot program for removing land mines as part of efforts to lower the intensity of a conflict that has lasted a half century. The announcement came at the end of the latest round of peace talks that began in Cuba's capital since in November 2012. Under the agreement, the Colombian army battalion that specializes in removing mines will clear explosives at a selected number

of sites while working under the supervision of a team that will include two members each from the government, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and affected communities. "The proposal for demining is a first step, but a giant step toward making peace," said Humberto de La Calle, spokesman for the government. Ivan Marquez, the chief negotiator for the rebel movement known as the FARC, said the deal would help remove unexploded mines — explosives that "have taken the dreams of thousands of people living in our country." □

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Jamaica moving to reclaim global dominance in reggae

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— For decades, the sound of Jamaica has been reggae, the infectious, uniquely syncopated music that transformed the small Caribbean island into a cultural powerhouse.

But the genre's success has taken it far beyond its roots, and now many in Jamaica worry that reggae-lovers abroad are forgetting the motherland where it was born.

"Reggae was given to the world by Jamaica so nobody can or ever should discourage anyone overseas from making this music. But we think there should be acknowledgment that reggae was created in Jamaica," said Michael "Ibo" Cooper, a musician who is chairman of the Jamaica Reggae Industry Association.

Around the world, music festivals celebrating the sounds made famous by reggae patron saint Bob Marley and followers who developed the faster, brasher derivative of dancehall are more likely to be headlined by bands from places like California or France than by native-born Jamaicans. Aside from albums by the late

Marley or his progeny, few of the top-selling reggae CDs or downloads come from Jamaican artists.

To get a stronger foothold in the information age, Jamaican officials and reggae industry insiders

economic engine on the island.

Officials are hashing over the creation of a certification mark to designate “authentic reggae” — a sort of “Good Housekeeping Seal” — to encourage



Jamaican singer Jah Bouks, whose given name is Warin Smith, entertains the crowd at a show organized by the Jamaica Reggae Industry Association during the island's "reggae month," in Kingston, Jamaica. To get a stronger foothold in the information age, Jamaican officials and reggae industry insiders are brainstorming ways to better capitalize on Jamaica's exuberant music culture and help protect what some claim is local intellectual property.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

are brainstorming ways to better capitalize on Jamaica's exuberant music culture and help protect what some claim is local intellectual property. After years of only piecemeal support, the government increasingly is viewing reggae and other cultural enterprises as a hoped-for

the use of Jamaican musicians, producers and merchandise. They also hope to defend Jamaican reggae by having the U.N.'s culture organization add it to a global list of "intangible cultural heritage" such as Argentina's tango and China's Peking opera. The Paris-based agency says

the island's government has yet to apply for inclusion on the list of more than 280 cultural traditions.

Rob Bowman, a music professor from Canada's York University who has researched intellectual property and Jamaican music, said that while population numbers mean reggae's biggest markets always will be overseas there's no reason why more revenue streams from foreign commerce shouldn't flow back to Jamaica.

"With few exceptions, these styles of music cannot be authentically replicated by non-Jamaicans. As such, these styles of music represent intellectual property that is, for all intents and purposes, already a part of Jamaica's branding," Bowman asserts in a World Intellectual Property Organization consultancy report for Jamaica.

A country of fewer than 3 million people, Jamaica has had remarkable success originating influential musical forms such as ska, rocksteady, reggae, dub and dancehall. Musicologists say production innovations and the discovery of "toasting," reggae deejays chanting over a beat, directly inspired hip-hop.

A cross-pollination of Afro-Caribbean folk music and American R&B, reggae first was introduced to Europe by Jamaican migrants settling in Britain in the late 1960s. Its popularity exploded in the 1970s with the rise of Marley and other Jamaican Rastafarian stars, whose music influenced British groups like The Clash, UB40 and The English Beat. Jamaican music later shaped U.S. bands like No Doubt and Sublime.

Eric Smith, CEO of the New York-based reggae label Easy Star Records, said American bands are succeeding now due to their strong "do-it-yourself" ethos and online marketing, a key to making it in independent music. Unlike some earlier non-Jamaican reggae artists who adopted island patois and themes, they use the genres to highlight their own U.S. culture, not Jamaica's. "While we certainly need to respect, understand and celebrate the unique and rich history of Jamaican music and do whatever we can to support it, there is no practical way to stop anyone else from tapping in and drawing something from the culture," he said. □



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Aruban Donkey Sanctuary Starts New Sponsoring Program



BRINGAMOSA – Here on Aruba more than 40 volunteers take care of a large group of donkeys on a daily basis. They also help raise money, as 130 donkeys cost a lot. Now there is a new way to help support this worthwhile foundation. Support the Aruban Don-

keys (SAD) is a newly founded club for locals. Each participant pays just 10 florins a month and helps support the good work of the Donkey Sanctuary this way. Hopefully the Donkey Sanctuary can thus continue keeping this part of the Aruban cultural heritage alive. At the same time, participants also keep one of the island's most popular tourist attractions alive and in business.

To reach the Aruban population, volunteers will be manning a stand where they introduce the SAD project. On March 7 they will be present at Super

Food Plaza, on March 14 at Flora. On Dia di Bandera (March 18) they can be found at the National Archives Open House, while Kooyman welcomes them on March 21. And should you have missed them, then they will be ready to inform you about their exciting project on March 28 at Ling & Sons.

Please support the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary and become a member. You will receive an exclusive membership card and a great sticker for on your car. Of course you can always register as a member via 593-2933 or via www.arubandonkey.org. □





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der Winkel from the Netherlands. Daan and Marion are loyal guests of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the safety, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and casinos. The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with representatives of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. □



March Madness

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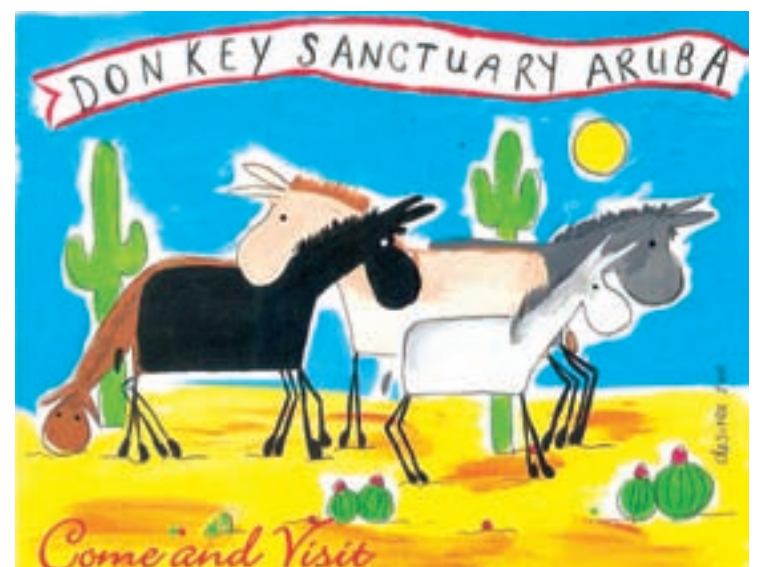
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ORANJESTAD - Take a burger of one hundred percent prime Angus beef, add to that the freshest possible extras and tastiest sauces and voila: here is your gourmet burger. Sidebar, a newly opened, great restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad, knows how to tease your taste buds with the best burgers imaginable.

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Zforall, Sarasota, FL-USA
TripAdvisor - January 5th, 2015

Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste— try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER

Daisy Gomez Celebrates 20 Years With Aruba's Tourism Industry



PALM BEACH - Recently, a happy occasion was celebrated by Daisy Gomez when this key-executive of Customer Relations and Yield Management, completed twenty most-satisfying years on the job

in Aruba's tourism industry. Daisy thanked her creator for health and strength over the years, and praised her management team at the resort she works at for the stability and tranquility they help sustain, which make the resort an employer of choice and a vacation destination of choice.

Over lunch at the Asian Bistro, on South Beach Center, Daisy shared many memories with interim general manager Astrid Muller, and other members of the executive team, expressing her heartfelt gratitude to all the people that have in one way or another helped guide her continued personal development over two decades. She also gave special thanks to her family members for their support, patience and understanding. Looking back, she declared, I can say that I'm fortunate to have my



work as my hobby, which makes it fun, and rewarding. In her free time, when not at the helm of her department, Daisy likes to walk, go to the movies, cook special dishes, research different topics on

line and enjoy Island life. Daisy, says Astrid Muller, earned different nominations over the years, as she was awarded the employee of the year, and later the manager of the year titles and contrib-

uted greatly to her department's success, Front Office & Reservations, as it was voted department of the year. We wish her many more fulfilling years in Aruba's tourism industry. □



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day! Since opening nine years ago many old and new guests have been finding their way down the white sandy path to Bugaloe. With not one but two daily happy hours from 5 - 6pm and 10 - 11pm, the

bar continues to brighten peoples' days and nights. The happy hours were recently renewed to continue surprising guests with new, exciting and exclusive developments in drinks and amusement. Live musical entertainers will bring



you service with a song at Happy Hour and will belt out tunes without missing a beat or spilling a drop! The combination of location, cool vibes, live music 4 nights a week, happy hour entertainment, and the interaction between staff and guests has not gone unnoticed. Both Endless Vacation and Cruiseline Mag-

azine named Bugaloe as a top 10 best beach bars in the Caribbean. In the words of The Huffington Post: "Bugaloe is a sexy locale right on the water with that true sense-of-place feel". Reservations are not necessary- just follow your tapping feet down to the music where smiles and fun await you! ☐





Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) dunks against the Los Angeles Clippers during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, March 8, 2015.

Associated Press

Warriors supporting cast steps up in win over Clips

The Associated Press
OAKLAND, California (AP) — Draymond Green had 23 points and six assists and the Golden State Warriors beat the Los Angeles Clippers 106-98 on Sunday for their sixth straight home victory.

Klay Thompson added 21 points on 9-for-13 shooting in the matinee.

Shaun Livingston gave Golden State another nice lift off the bench with a season-best 21 points and eight rebounds in 28 minutes to help the supporting cast take some pressure off do-everything point guard Stephen Curry. Greeted by chants of "M-V-P!" Curry didn't score his first field goal until 5:16 before halftime and finished with 12 points and four assists. Austin Rivers had 22 points for Los Angeles.

SPURS 116, BULLS 105

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Parker had a season-high 32 points and San Antonio beat Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

Kawhi Leonard added 20 points, Patty Mills had 15 points and Manu Ginobili 14 for the Spurs. Pau Gasol had 23 points and Aaron Brooks added 22 for Chicago. □

ONLY VEGAS

Kevin Harvick wins at Las Vegas



Kevin Harvick celebrates in victory lane after winning the Kobalt 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race Sunday, March 8, 2015, in Las Vegas.
Associated Press
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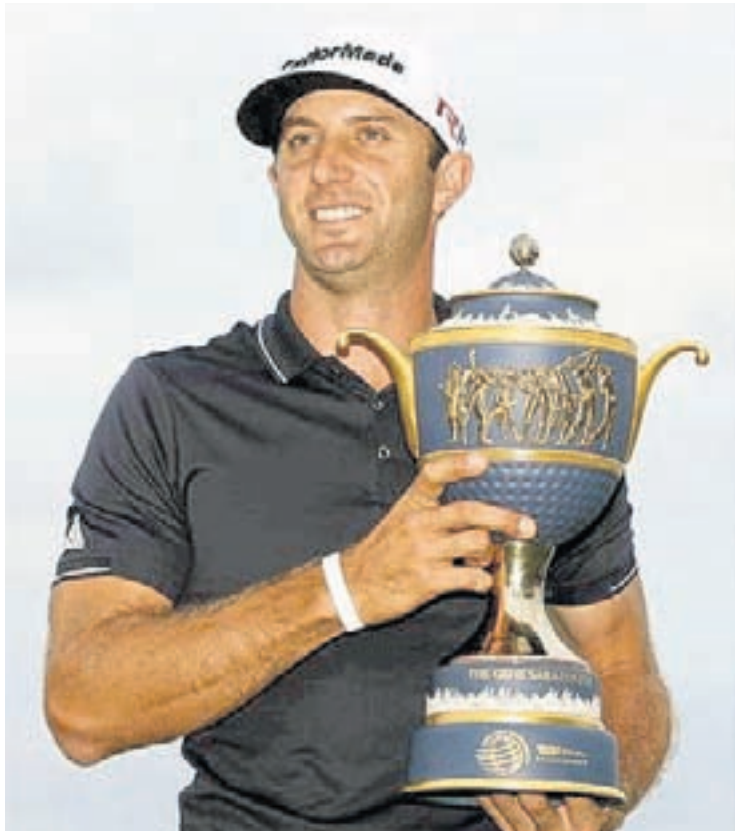


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Dustin Johnson holds the Gene Sarazen Cup after winning the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 8, 2015, in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press

Dustin Johnson back to golf, back to winning

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

DORAL, Fla. (AP) — A month after he returned from his curious leave of absence, Dustin Johnson was posing with another big trophy.

In a power show Sunday on the Blue Monster, Johnson was flawless on the back nine and blasted two big drives to finish off a 3-under 69 and win the Cadillac Championship for his second World Golf Championship title.

Johnson took advantage of a collapse by J.B. Holmes, who lost a five-shot lead and closed with a 75 to finish one shot behind.

Masters champion Bubba Watson opened with four birdies in seven holes to lead by two shots, only to make three bogeys in a four-hole stretch on the back nine. He shot 71 and finished two behind.

Johnson won for the ninth time in his PGA Tour career and moved to No. 7 in the world.

It looked as though the 30-year-old Johnson was never gone.

He returned just five weeks ago from a six-month leave of absence to seek professional help for what he described only as personal challenge.

Golf.com reported in August that Johnson had failed a cocaine test for the second time, and that he previously was suspended in 2012 under similar circumstances.

Johnson only said, "No," when asked if he failed a drug test in an interview before his return.

The swagger was back at Trump National Doral, especially on the finishing holes. But when he tapped in for par, it was clear this victory meant more than the others. He walked off with fiancée Paulina Gretzky — the daughter of hockey great Wayne Gretzky — and their son, Tatum, who was born in January.

"I knew I was really good," Johnson said. "I knew there was something I was missing that could make me great. I was working hard on that, and I think it's showing right now. ... It's tough. I'm so excited right now, I can't hardly talk. It feels great. The one definitely, by far, is the best one."

One day after Johnson made a hole-in-one on the par-3 fourth hole, he nearly did it again, missing the cup by an inch. That was his first birdie, and two birdies on the par 5s around the turn drew him closer as Watson began to slip.

Watson laid up into the rough on the par-5 12th hole, caught a plugged lie in a bunker and made his second straight bogey to create a three-way tie for the lead with three of the longest hitters in golf. Johnson took the lead for the first time when he made a 10-foot par putt on the 14th hole, and Holmes missed his par from 6 feet.

The pivotal moment came on the par-3 15th, when Johnson rolled in a birdie from just inside 15 feet for a two-shot lead.

He made all the right moves the rest of the way. Johnson finished at 9-under 279, adding to the WGC title he won in Shanghai at the end of 2013. He was on top of his game, one of golf's most athletic figures who already had contended in three majors. Then came the indefinite leave, forcing him to miss the Ryder Cup and the FedEx Cup playoffs.

And now he's back. In five tournaments, he has missed the cut twice, lost in a playoff at Riviera and tied for fourth at Pebble Beach.

It was the second close call this year for Holmes, who lost in a playoff at Torrey Pines. It was a struggle from the start, and Holmes lost his five-shot lead in the first 30 minutes, and fell behind with three bogeys in his opening six holes. □

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Lindsey Vonn wins women's World Cup Super-G

NESHA STARCEVIC

AP Sports Writer

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCH-
EN, Germany (AP) —

Lindsey Vonn is back doing what she does best, winning races and making history with each new win. After missing out on a gold medal at last month's home World Championships and a few sub-par races in the aftermath, Vonn won a World Cup Super-G on Sunday to regain the lead in the discipline with one race remaining.

Vonn is chasing her fifth Super-G World Cup title and stretched her record with a 23rd race win in the event. "Yesterday was disappointing so I came out with the right attitude," Vonn said after the race as she stripped to a sleeveless neon-yellow T-shirt with "making history" written on it. Vonn was seventh in Satur-

day's downhill and made sure she bounced back.

"I wanted to ski my best and attack and I did. A nice way to win," Vonn said.

The American put together a winning time of 1 minute, 16.65 seconds in sunny conditions.

Overall World Cup leader Tina Maze of Slovenia was .20 seconds behind and Anna Fenninger of Austria was .36 back in third.

Vonn's 65th career win, another record, gave her an eight-point lead over Fenninger in the Super-G standings. The last race in the event is at the World Cup finals in Meribel, France, later this month.

"It's going to be a close fight. I'll have to ski my best and I hope I can get two titles," said Vonn, who is also chasing the downhill crown.

Vonn could equal Katja Seizinger's record of five Super-G titles.

Maze increased her overall lead over Fenninger to 44 points.

"She has been putting a lot of pressure on me. I knew I had a good run," said Maze, whose coach set the course.

"It's in difficult moments that you can show your character and I did today," Maze said. "I had a very good run, I was ready."

Maze said she was aware that the way the course was set would also benefit Vonn. "But if it was set tighter, it would have helped Anna," she said.

Vonn said Maze's coach made a "wise decision." Fenninger had won back-to-back races in Bulgaria last weekend and finished ahead of Maze in Saturday's downhill, when she



Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, celebrates in the finish area after winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G, in Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany, Sunday, March 8, 2015.

Associated Press

was second and the Slovenian third, cutting into Maze's overall lead. There are six races remaining, including a pair of gate events in Maze's homeland.

"I saw that Tina had a great run so I had to take risks and it was close," Fenninger said. "It was a fast race, with broad turns." Vonn is the only female skier to have won more

than one Super-G race on the demanding Kandahar course in Garmisch. She also took the races in 2009 and 2010. She has now won five races in Garmisch.

The American now also has sole possession of second place with the number of top-three finishes on the World Cup circuit with 111, three behind the record of 114 held by Annemarie Moser-Proell of Austria. □

Defending champ Harvick grabs 1st win of season at Las Vegas

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Defending NASCAR champion Kevin Harvick raced to his first victory of the season Sunday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

The win came in just the third race of the season, and Harvick has been inching toward victory lane since he began his title defense. He finished second in the season-opening Daytona 500, was second last week at Atlanta and, dating back to last season, has six consecutive top-two finishes. He also has won three

of the last six races dating to last season.

Harvick isn't looking too far ahead, though.

"We just have to keep our heads down and keep doing everything that we've been doing," he said. "This isn't a bunch of guys that are just going to go out and brag. We're going to race every week like we have never won a race before. That's the kind of determination that you need when you are going to do this stuff."

Harvick now has a win that gives him a near-certain berth in the Chase for the

Sprint Cup championship, where he'd be guaranteed a shot to defend his title. The Chase format awards slots into the play-off via regular-season wins.

"It feels pretty good. I'm pretty excited about it," Harvick said. "This whole Chase thing, there is a lot of strategy to get in to it. The best strategy is to go out and win races."

Next up for Harvick? A stop at Phoenix, where Harvick has won four of the last five races. His November win pushed him into the championship race.

Harvick led 142 of the 267



Kevin Harvick celebrates in victory lane after winning the Kobalt 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race Sunday, March 8, 2015, in Las Vegas.

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laps, and he beat Martin Truex Jr. to the finish. He did it while battling a vibration that developed after his final pit stop.

"It got to be a handful there at the end," Harvick said. "For whatever reason, we got really, really loose the last run. Tires started vibrating and we were just kind of hanging on. Glad the race is over for our own good."

Truex was second and now has three top-eight finishes to open the season. He only had one top-five finish last year, his first with Furniture Row Racing.

Ryan Newman, runner-up to Harvick in the championship finale, finished third and was followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr. in a Chevrolet sweep of the top four spots. Denny Hamlin was fifth in a Toyota and followed by AJ Allmendinger, a Chase qualifier last year.

Brad Keselowski was sixth and followed by Kyle Larson, Matt Kenseth, Joey Logano and Jamie McMurray.

The race had several small incidents, including one on lap 194 when Carl Edwards squeezed Kasey Kahne into an outside wall. Kahne then drove down the track and seemed to hit Edwards, sending him into a spin.

Edwards had to take his car to the garage and took the blame for the initial contact. "Completely my fault," he said.

Jimmie Johnson, winner

last week at Atlanta, had a strong car but his day was ruined by two different tire failures.

"The first one, they said the bead blew on it ... that's kind of a freak deal," Johnson said. "The second one, it went soft. So there could have been some damage that caused it or some rub or something like that, and it went soft going into Turn 3 and I hit the wall, unfortunately."

Jeff Gordon had won the pole for the race, but an accident in the closing minutes of Saturday's final practice session sent him to a backup car. He had to drop to the rear of the field at the start of the race, but an accident in the closing minutes of Saturday's final practice session sent him to a backup car. He had to drop to the rear of the field at the start of the race, and although he picked his way through traffic early, he had to avoid teammate Johnson's contact with the wall. It sent Gordon's car into the back of rookie Jeb Burton, and caused enough damage that Gordon had to go to pit road for repairs.

He finished 18th and went over to speak to Burton after the race.

and although he picked his way through traffic early, he had to avoid teammate Johnson's contact with the wall. It sent Gordon's car into the back of rookie Jeb Burton, and caused enough damage □

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Rangers ace Yu Darvish might need Tommy John surgery



Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish throws in the first inning against the Kansas City Royals in a spring training baseball game Thursday, March 5, 2015, in Surprise, Ariz.

Associated Press

DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer
SURPRISE, Arizona (AP) — Texas Rangers ace Yu Darvish might need season-ending Tommy John surgery after an MRI exam revealed partially torn ligaments in his troublesome right elbow. Texas general manager Jon Daniels said on Saturday that Darvish could try to pitch through the injury, rest it for up to four months, or undergo surgery. Daniels said the club would get a second opinion this week-end but indicated surgery may be the preferred option. "The concern with the first two options is, are you delaying the inevitable?" Daniels said. Darvish, a three-time All-Star, was shut down for the final seven weeks last season with inflammation in

the same elbow. The Japanese pitcher underwent an exam in late November that came back clean, and had not experienced any trouble in workouts and bullpen sessions. He first felt tightness while warming up in the bullpen before Thursday's game against Kansas City. He throttled back to protect the elbow while throwing 12 pitches in his only inning. Afterward, Darvish said through a translator he did not think the injury was serious. He had an exam late Friday. "I will be disappointed if I have to miss this season, but I want to look at all the options including getting a second opinion before I make a final decision," Darvish said in a statement on Saturday. "My heart is with my teammates, and our focus remains on ac-

complishing our goals." Darvish will remain in camp while a second surgeon studies the exam results. If surgery is required, it would likely happen in the next couple of weeks. That could give Darvish enough time to fully recover before the start of next season. "Given the news, he's handled it extremely well," Daniels said. "He's very pragmatic about it. He's talking to the people he's close to before making a decision." The news was a significant blow to the Rangers. Darvish was limited to 22 starts last year, because of neck stiffness that caused him to miss the beginning of the season, and the elbow inflammation that caused him to be shut down later. He was still effective, going 10-7 with a 3.20 ERA. But he seemed to lack the same

kind of life on his pitches that he had in his first two years, when he was in the running for rookie of the year and then logged more than 200 innings while leading Major League Baseball in strikeouts. □



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SUN & HOL 3:35 | 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35



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MON-THURS 5:35 | 8:10
FRI 5:35 | 8:10 | 10:45
SAT 3:00 | 5:35 | 8:10 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:35 | 8:10

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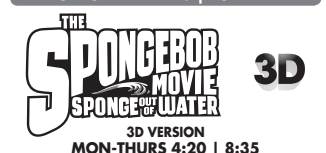
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Armstrong backs investigation into cycling's murky past

JEROME PUGMIRE
AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Lance Armstrong welcomed an investigative report into the murky past of cycling's governing body and said he hopes it can help the sport move on from an era that will always be remembered for the doping by himself and others.

The report turned up no evidence to sustain previous allegations that Armstrong paid the UCI to cover up a positive doping test back in his heyday, yet it explains in great detail how the UCI acted favorably toward Armstrong — a rider dubbed "cycling's pop star."

The Cycling Independent Reform Commission (CIRC) was requested by Brian Cookson, the current UCI president. Its report examined how the doping culture during Armstrong's era was allowed to fester under the previous UCI leadership of former president Pat McQuaid and predecessor Hein Verbruggen.

"I am grateful to CIRC for seeking the truth and allowing me to assist in that search. I am deeply sorry for many things I have done," Armstrong said in a statement. "It is my hope that revealing the truth will lead to a bright, dope-free future for the sport I love, and will allow all young riders emerging from small towns throughout the world in years to come to chase

their dreams without having to face the lose-lose choices that so many of my friends, teammates and opponents faced."

Armstrong is trying to overturn a life ban imposed by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. He was stripped of his seven Tour titles for doping on every one of his wins from 1999-2005.

Armstrong's attorney, Elliot Peters, said Armstrong "co-operated fully" with senior investigators over two days, answering all questions "without any restrictions" and providing "all documents requested to which he had access."

In their affidavits provided to USADA — whose scathing report in 2012 exposed systematic doping by Armstrong and others — former U.S. Postal teammates Tyler Hamilton and Floyd Landis declared that Armstrong had told them separately that he tested positive for the performance enhancer EPO at the 2001 Tour de Suisse.

Landis claimed that the test was hushed up as a result of a financial agreement with Verbruggen.

Armstrong was tested five times during the 2001 Tour de Suisse. Three samples were tested for EPO and they came back negative, although there was a "strong suspicion" that two of the "A" samples did contain traces of the banned blood booster, the CRIC report said — adding that



A Sunday, July 25, 2010 photo from files showing a fan with an American flag running alongside Lance Armstrong of the US during the parade after the 20th and last stage of the Tour de France cycling race in Paris, France.

Associated Press

it deemed inappropriate the fact that "Armstrong and his entourage were informed by the UCI of these suspect test results."

A year later, Armstrong sent Verbruggen a letter containing a check for \$25,000 as a donation toward the fight against doping.

Although CRIC has "not found any indication of a financial agreement" the report said the "UCI did not act prudently in accepting a donation from an athlete" already under suspicion. The collusion between Armstrong and the UCI's leadership features strongly in the 227-page report.

Armstrong's lawyers were allowed to draft parts of a supposedly independent report, which sought to debunk French daily L'Equipe's claims in 2005 that Armstrong's samples at the 1999 Tour later tested

positive for EPO.

The independent report into the '99 allegations, which was led by Dutch lawyer Emile Vrijman, was heavily criticized because it "specifically excluded an examination of the EPO test," meaning it deliberately avoided addressing whether Armstrong used the substance.

The Vrijman report coincided with an agreement between Armstrong and the UCI that he would donate \$100,000 for the purchase of a Sysmex blood testing machine. This prompted allegations that his latest donation to the UCI's anti-doping cause was an indirect payment to help fund the Vrijman report and quash L'Equipe's story.

The CRIC did not find "any evidence to corroborate" such allegations but said the UCI acted improperly

"in soliciting and accepting donations from an athlete" under increasing suspicion. The close-knit relationship helped Armstrong on the '99 Tour when he tested positive for a banned corticosteroid. Armstrong did not declare pre-race that he was using medication — even though the argument he used for using a corticoid cream was to treat saddle sores. Rather than start disciplinary proceedings, the UCI accepted a backdated prescription and cleared him.

Armstrong, having retired after the 2005 Tour, was also cleared by the UCI to make his comeback at Australia's Tour down Under in 2009 — despite not being eligible because he had not been in the UCI's doping testing pool for a six-month period beforehand.

McQuaid first wrote to Armstrong, firmly telling him he could not race. But two days after that, McQuaid informed him that he could compete. The same day, Armstrong told McQuaid that he would race in the 2009 Tour of Ireland, which McQuaid was keen to promote in his homeland.

In one email sent to McQuaid, written at the time of USADA's impending investigation, a UCI consultant refers to Armstrong as "cycling's pop star" and states clearly that for the sake of its image the "UCI has an interest that LA is acquitted." □

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Microsoft outlines plan to bridge Xbox and PC video gaming

By DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) --

Microsoft is attempting to break down the walls surrounding console gaming. Phil Spencer, head of the company's video game division, detailed Microsoft's plan for game makers to create universal apps that can run on both Xbox One consoles and PCs with Windows 10, as well as smartphones, tablets and other devices running the forthcoming version of Windows. That includes HoloLens, Microsoft's wearable headset that gives wearers the ability to interact with

three-dimensional images. "Our goal with gaming at Microsoft is to allow people to play games wherever they are," Spencer told game makers Wednesday at the Game Developers Conference. "We know for developers that it's critically important for you to reach those gamers wherever they are."

Spencer said the marriage of Xbox One and Windows 10 would allow creators to make their games easily accessible to consumers, regardless of whether they switch between devices or where they buy apps.

"We know there are bil-

lions of people that play games across all devices," Spencer said. "Today, the world is segmented. You don't have linkage really between the places that your customers are playing your games."

Microsoft Corp. first revealed its plans to bring Xbox and Windows closer together at the Jan. 21 unveiling of HoloLens and Windows 10, when Spencer demonstrated the upcoming Xbox One game "Fable Legends" running on a PC.

At the annual gathering of game developers on Wednesday, Spencer demonstrated the cross-play functionality on stage with a pair of players on Xbox One seamlessly facing off against another duo

on PC in a match of the competitive multiplayer indie game "(hash)IDARB." Spencer also teased that Microsoft will release an adapter later this year that will allow PCs to use wireless Xbox One controllers. No price was announced. In a private demo after Spencer's talk, Xbox director of program management Michael Ybarra showed off other functionality, including the abilities to record and edit game clips in Windows, find Xbox Live friends across multiple platforms and stream the Xbox One title "Sunset Overdrive" on a Microsoft Surface tablet.

Ybarra said game streaming will initially only be available on devices connected to the same net-

work, but the company was looking into making it available across the Internet.

Microsoft is investing heavily in training developers on how to create games that work across its platforms this week by sponsoring such GDC sessions as "Developing with Xbox Live for Windows 10" and "Gaming Consumer Experience on Windows 10."

The move is part of Microsoft's bid to win back a larger audience after losing ground in the mobile computing boom. Windows has long been the dominant operating software for desktop and laptop computers, but business has suffered with more people using smartphones and tablets. □



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Economic Views:

Deflation Concerns Show Up in an Obscure Derivatives Market

JUSTIN WOLFERS

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Something unusual is happening to prices right now: They are falling.

The recent sharp decline in gas prices is part of the story, but there is now growing fear that the Federal Reserve will undershoot its own 2 percent inflation target, hindering the economic recovery. There's also a small but worrying risk that the economy could enter a deflationary rut.

At issue are inflation expectations. Economists believe expectations are critical because they shape the decisions individual shopkeepers make when deciding whether and by how much to raise their prices. Beliefs about inflation create a self-fulfilling prophecy in which today's expected inflation becomes tomorrow's actual inflation. The trick to managing inflation then, is to manage inflation expectations. In practice, though, it is very hard to observe what people expect inflation to be.

That's why it's worth paying close attention to the disturbing portents from a relatively young and obscure derivatives market that provides new perspectives on inflation expectations - tracking not only the likely level of inflation, but also the risks that inflation might be too high, too low or just right. In this market, derivatives called inflation caps and inflation

floors are, effectively, bets on the trajectory of prices over the next few years.

Think of it as a prediction market for inflation. Just as prediction markets are better than experts, com-

puter models or surveys at forecasting elections, sporting events and the weather, it seems likely that these markets are better at capturing inflation expectations. The math involved is tricky, but recent research by Yuriy Kitsul, a Fed economist, and Jonathan Wright, a professor of economics at Johns Hopkins University, provides a useful guide. For example, the two economists show that by

buying and selling various derivatives you can form a portfolio expected to pay \$100 if the average rate of inflation over the next five years is between 1.5 and 2.5 percent. At the mo-

of roughly 2 percent as the most likely outcome, the market is also telling us the probability of other levels of inflation - or deflation. And it is saying that the risks of missing the 2 percent expenditures, and it tends to grow a few tenths of a percentage point slower.) The implication is that the market perceives the Fed as likely to be too hawkish over coming years, perhaps because the central bank will raise interest rates earlier or higher than is necessary to hit its 2 percent inflation target.

The prediction market also highlights the risks of the type of really awful outcomes that keep economists up at night.

Consider the threat of deflation, in which prices fall over an extended period, often hand in hand with economic stagnation. The market gives a 6 to 7 percent chance that prices will either be flat or will fall over the next five years. This sort of prolonged deflationary slump - similar to one Japan has experienced - would probably spell bad news for the United States. While the market is not saying this outcome is likely - indeed, it has revised down the odds a bit in recent weeks - it does suggest it is worth worrying about. Of course, the specific probabilities inferred from market prices should be taken with many grains of salt. In particular, traders may not be betting that prolonged deflation is probable, but rather be buying insurance against such a grim occurrence. Thus, prediction market prices might overstate the probability of bad outcomes. Nonetheless, these prices embed a powerful message for policymakers: Just as people buy flood insurance when they're concerned that a storm might do terrible damage, traders might be buying deflation insurance because they fear the risk of vast economic damage if the economy were to enter a deflationary rut. A common concern voiced by the Fed's hard-money critics is that the central bank has already increased the money supply so much that it will lose control of inflation as the economy recovers.□



Lydia Holland replaces the gas nozzle after filling up at a gas station in Sacramento, Calif. Something unusual is happening to prices right now: They are falling. The recent sharp decline in gas prices is part of the story, but there is now growing fear that the Federal Reserve will undershoot its own 2 percent inflation target, hindering the economic recovery.

(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

ment, this bet sells for \$49. If traders are betting to maximize their expected profits (more on this in a moment), then this price will rise or fall until it reflects the probability of that level of inflation. The \$49 price suggests the market believes there's slightly less than a 50-50 chance that the Fed will deliver an outcome that is roughly consistent with its stated inflation target of 2 percent.

While traders view inflation target are extremely unbalanced: It is twice as likely that inflation will come in below the Fed's target as above it. Moreover, for a technical reason, these odds most likely understate the probability that the Fed will undershoot its inflation target. (That's because the derivatives are bets on the future of the Consumer Price Index, while the Fed's goal is tied to a different index, for personal consumption

with leisure and hospital- ity adding 66,000 jobs, as well as an expansion of 54,000 jobs in education and health. Construction added 29,000 jobs in February, while manufacturing increased a modest 8,000. Gains were also made in professional services and the trade and transport sectors.

Still, one consistently dark patch in the recovery has been the sluggish growth of wages.□

As US adds jobs, paychecks barely budge

DIONNE SEARCEY

© 2015 New York Times

The economy is adding jobs at a rapid pace, the Labor Department reported last week, but there's still one major holdout to the recovery: wages.

Employers increased their payrolls by 295,000 workers in February, exceeding expectations, and the unemployment rate fell to 5.5 percent, its lowest point since spring 2008. But wage gains continued to

lag, rising only 0.1 percent in February for private-sector workers after a reported 0.5 increase in January. That resulted in a mere 2 percent advance over a year earlier, washing away the encouraging jump in January. Despite the disappointing wage numbers, the report prompted a new round of optimism about the economy's comeback from the recession along with fresh talk on Wall Street that

the Federal Reserve might raise interest rates at its June meeting rather than wait until September.

The news led to a sharp rise Friday in the yield on 10-year bonds and a substantial drop in the stock market, where investors feared that higher interest rates would make equities less attractive and chip away at corporate profits.

Job growth last month was heavily concentrated in the service sector,

with leisure and hospital- ity adding 66,000 jobs, as well as an expansion of 54,000 jobs in education and health. Construction added 29,000 jobs in February, while manufacturing increased a modest 8,000. Gains were also made in professional services and the trade and transport sectors.

Still, one consistently dark patch in the recovery has been the sluggish growth of wages.□

What Bibi Didn't Say



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
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Now that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made his case on Iran before Congress, with all the circus atmosphere it involved, let's get to the serious questions: What is America's interest in striking a deal with Iran? Because our interests and Israel's are not fully aligned. What is the minimum we need to satisfy our interests? And how should we balance the critiques of our policy from the serious Bibi versus the cynical Bibi?

What both the United States and Israel agree on, and I certainly do, is that Iran must be prevented from building a nuclear bomb, because it could be used to threaten the Jewish state and, once loaded onto a missile, Europe and the Arab states as well. Moreover, if Iran gets a bomb, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt would surely be tempted to do so as well, and, suddenly, you'd have a Middle East that is already full of sectarian proxy wars also full of nuclear weapons - with few of the deterrent safeguards you had during the Cold War between Washington and Moscow. There are actors in the Middle East for whom "mutual assured destruction" is an invitation to a party - not a system of mutual deterrence. Also, if Iran gets a bomb, there's a good chance the whole global nuclear nonproliferation regime, already frayed, would totally unravel, which would be very destabilizing.

Here, President Barack Obama and Netanyahu share the same concerns. And, in fairness, I doubt there would have been the sanctions and negotiations we have today with Iran had Bibi not threatened to go full "Dr. Strangelove" on Tehran. However, Bibi argues that any deal should eliminate all of Iran's centrifuges and related components that can enrich material for a bomb. I don't begrudge him that wish. Most of my Israeli friends share it. But, as Robert Einhorn, a former member of the U.S. negotiating team with Iran, observed in an Op-Ed article in The Times, that position "is neither achievable nor necessary" to safeguard our security or that of our Mideast allies.

Netanyahu never made a convincing argument as to why walking away from Obama's draft deal with Iran would result in either a better deal, more sanctions or an Iranian capitulation - and not a situation where Iran would continue to build toward a bomb and our only two choices would be to live with it or bomb it, with all the mess that could entail. In that sense, Bibi's speech was perfect for Congress: I've got a better plan, and

it won't cost a thing or require any sacrifice by the American people. The guy could be a congressman.

The U.S. position - shared by China, Russia, Germany, Britain and France - is: Given that Iran has already mastered the techniques to make a bomb and managed to import all the components to do so, despite sanctions, it is impossible to eliminate Iran's bomb-making capabilities. What is possible is to demand that Iran roll back its enrichment and other technologies so that if Iran decided one day to make a bomb, it would take it a year - more than enough time for the U.S. and its allies to destroy it.

I think such a deal would be in America's interest if - if - it includes Iran agreeing to constant, intrusive and unannounced inspections of, and limits on, all bomb-making capacities and if, even after the specified 10 years, there are more-than-the-usual inspections. I would also welcome Congress accompanying the deal by granting the president formal authorization - right now - to use "any means necessary" to respond should Iran try to break out of the deal.

These conditions would satisfy U.S. strategic concerns, while opening the possibility - nothing more - for Iran to become more integrated into the global system. Ultimately, the only safeguard against Iran's nuclear ambitions is an internally driven change in the character of Iran's regime.

My problem with Netanyahu is that he warned that the interim deal Obama negotiated with Iran - which froze and rolled back parts of Iran's nuclear program and created these negotiations - would lead to a collapse of sanctions and be violated by Iran. None of it happened.

Moreover, Bibi's message was that there is nothing more important than deterring Iran. OK. But, if that were my top priority, would I engineer an invitation to speak to Congress by leveraging only the Republican Party and do it without even informing the president, who is running the Iran talks? And would I do it two weeks before Israeli elections, where it looks as though I am using the American Congress as a backdrop for a campaign ad, raising the question of whether my opposition to Iran is partly a political pose? And if I needed the Europeans to be on my side for tighter sanctions, wouldn't I announce no more settlement-building in the West Bank in areas everyone knows will be part of any negotiated Palestinian state? Such a move would cost Bibi politically with his base, but would certainly increase Israel's support from Europe.

Alas, Bibi is Churchill when it comes to isolating Iran, but he is AWOL when it comes to risking his own political future to make it happen. I have a problem with that. I still don't know if I will support this Iran deal, but I also have a problem with my own Congress howling in support of a flawed foreign leader trying to scuttle the negotiations by my own government before they're done. Rubs me the wrong way. □



You Think Your Winter Was Rough?



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
© 2015 New York Times

In October, two young Americans set off on the most daring and foolhardy wilderness expedition since, oh, maybe Lewis and Clark.

They were trying to become the first people ever to backpack from Canada to Mexico on the Pacific Crest Trail in the dead of winter. Once before, in 1983, two people set out to traverse the trail in winter. They never made it. Their bodies were found a month after they fell off an icy cliff.

A winter thru-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail seemed impossible. The trail is covered by many feet of snow that time of year, and, even if the two explorers managed to find their way, they risked triggering avalanches, plunging through ice into rivers, or simply running out of food while trapped in blizzards.

"People said it was a death sentence," Shawn Forry, one of the hikers, told me.

He had estimated half-jokingly at the start that they had a 17 percent chance of succeeding. But he spoke to me shortly after he and Justin Lichter reached the Mexican border Sunday, completing their 2,650-mile odyssey - and surviving frostbite, blizzards, tumbles into frozen rivers and 1,750 consecutive trail miles without encountering a single

other hiker.

Perhaps it feels a little self-indulgent to celebrate two guys who took a long walk. But what a walk! Like the 4-minute mile or the free climb of the Dawn Wall at Yosemite, this is something that seemed beyond human capacity - and then humans did it. So let's take a break from current affairs and recriminations about human vengality to laud a triumph of human strength.

It helped that the two men were enormously experienced. Forry is a wilderness instructor for Outward Bound. Lichter works on a ski patrol and said he has hiked 35,000 miles, equivalent to nearly 1 1/2 times around Earth. He gave up one long backpack across East Africa when lions were stalking him.

Both Forry and Lichter had hiked the entire Pacific Crest Trail in summer - itself an ultimate test of endurance (fewer people have thru-hiked the full trail than have climbed Mount Everest). But they wanted to see it in another season.

"With the snow, there's so much natural beauty," Lichter said. "It's so peaceful. And the frozen rivers have these strange ice formations."

They used snowshoes and, in California, skis, while carrying loads of up to 45 pounds, including food (they resupplied every week or so). Winter storms were frequent. When it snowed at night, they would get up every 30 minutes to push snow off their tarp to keep it from collapsing on them. In whiteouts, they could barely see and stayed close to each other - except when crossing avalanche zones, when they had to separate to ensure that they would not both get buried in the same avalanche.

Even drinking water was a challenge.

"You're surrounded by frozen water, but you don't have easy access to it to drink," Forry said. They used a stove to melt snow for drinking water.

The worst period, they said, came in the Oregon mountains

when a huge snowfall and below-zero temperatures left them with frostbitten feet. They were able to warm up and avoid permanent damage, yet they still had another 2,000 miles to go.

"At times, you're pulling your knee up to your chest to take the next step, to get it above the snow - and that's in snowshoes," Forry said.

Barney Mann, the chairman of the Pacific Crest Trail Association and unofficial historian of the trail, said that after the frostbite incident he had doubted that Forry and Lichter would succeed. "It's the unrelenting cold," Mann said. "It's the unrelenting snow. It's the moment-by-moment challenge of navigation when everything is white."

One difficult day came in Northern California when a storm dropped 10 inches of rain in 24 hours, winds reached 70 mph and both men tumbled into a swollen torrent of a river that left them and their gear drenched and frigid.

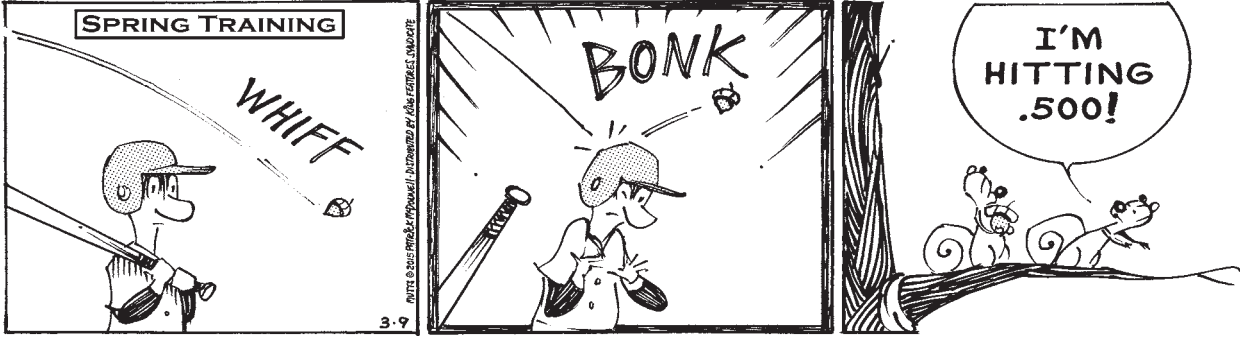
Yet, in spite of all those challenges, they still urge people to try winter camping - carefully.

"I really encourage people to get out in the winter," Forry said. "You have it to yourself, and it's so peaceful. But start with a day trip - that way if anything goes wrong, you're near your car."

I'm delighted to announce that the winner of my annual win-a-trip contest is Austin Meyer, a journalism student at Stanford University. We'll probably travel to India and Bangladesh, although Congo is an alternate possibility. The runners-up are Ashley Bastock of John Carroll University, Taylor Graham of Ithaca College and Sam Friedlander of University of Pennsylvania. Thanks to the Center for Global Development for helping me pick Austin from a dazzling field of 450 applicants. Stay tuned for a great reporting trip!

Contact Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/Nick-Kristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □

Mutts



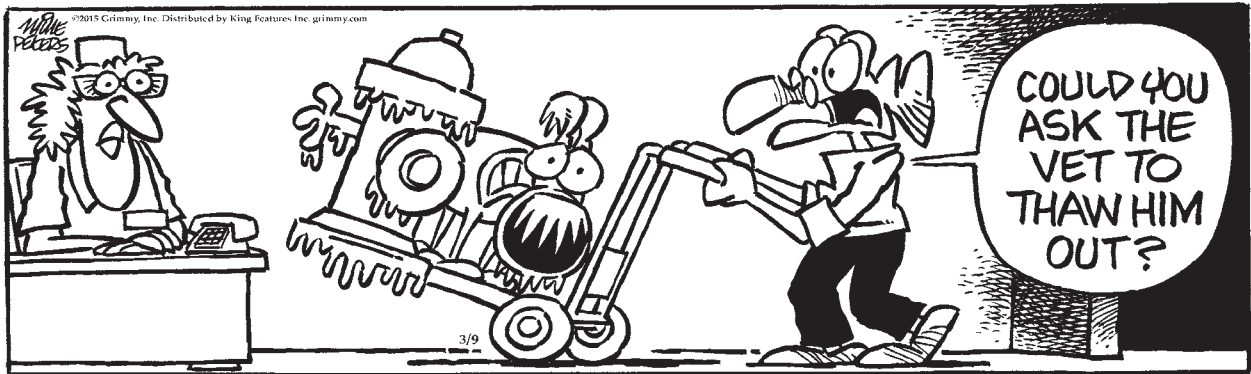
6 Chix



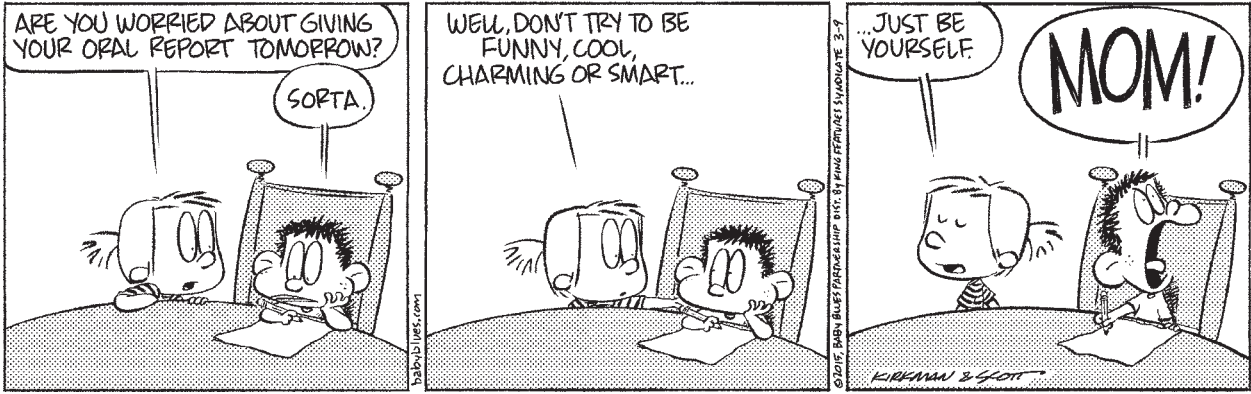
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Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			9	2	1			
6	9						8	2
		5		6		9		
3			5		2			8
8		7				1		5
1			6		7			3
		3		5		2		
9	1						6	7
			7	9	4			

Difficulty Level ★

3/09

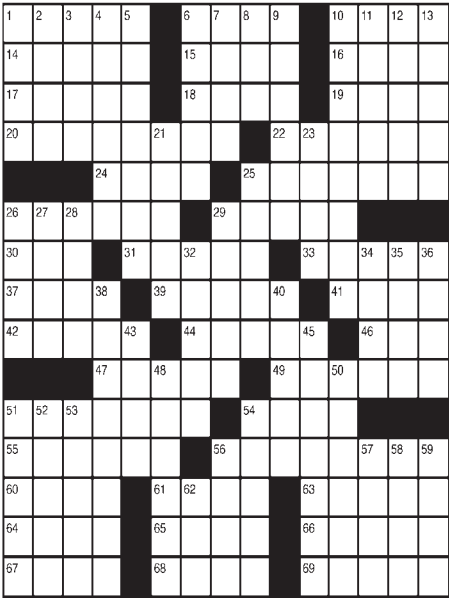
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

6	4	3	5	8	1	9	2	7
2	9	5	4	7	6	8	1	3
8	1	7	3	2	9	4	5	6
9	6	4	2	5	3	7	8	1
5	7	1	6	4	8	3	9	2
3	8	2	9	1	7	6	4	5
4	3	6	1	9	2	5	7	8
1	5	8	7	3	4	2	6	9
7	2	9	8	6	5	1	3	4

ACROSS

- 1 Terra ____; clay
6 Like water ____
10 Late singer
14 Publicized
15 Has a bug
16 Candid; frank
17 Sparkle
18 Tight, as a rope
19 Diminish
20 Vision
22 Like the voice of one with laryngitis
24 Makes a mistake
25 More intelligent
26 Small shapely tree in a pot
29 Plank
30 Spanish one
31 Memorize
33 Undergarments
37 Say no more
39 Whips severely
41 Days of ____; yesteryear
42 Pick-me-up
44 High-powered surgical beam
46 Even score
47 Was crazy about
49 Overhaul
51 Type of steak
54 As stubborn as a ____
55 High standards
56 Monotony
60 Snake's tooth
61 Element whose symbol is Fe
63 Wall recess
64 "...Sweet land of liberty, of ____ I sing..."
65 Wants nothing ____ with; spurns
66 Lake near Reno
67 Female pigs
68 Night twinkler
69 Makes a mess at table



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/9/15

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- 1 Hamster's home
2 Greasy
3 Yule purchase
4 Ribs
5 High naval rank
6 Sworn statements
7 Italian auto
8 Common ailment
9 Breathing disorder
10 Spineless
11 Take ____; undo
12 Good judgment
13 Derisive smile
21 Deep sadness
23 Rowers' items
25 Melodies
26 Arrest
27 Aware of the shenanigans of
28 Lunchtime
29 Wide
32 Woody or Tim
34 Smidgen
35 Overly proper

HACK	ACTOR	ROTS
ABLE	GHANA	OAHU
LEAN	RECAPTURED	
EDS	MEAT	ASSES
	STEEP	OLE
PAIRED	EXODUS	
UNFIT	HAVEN	NOR
SNIP	JAPAN	TRIO
HIE	WANTS	SHELL
EDWARD	PLEASE	
	ITS	GRIND
ALICE	BRAD	APE
BOOK	REVIEW	OBEY
COTE	LIKEN	FLOE
STAR	FEEDS	FEND

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3/9/15

- 36 Ooze out
38 Plunders; loots
40 Watery part of the blood
43 "Groovy!" in today's world
45 Gives in
48 Drops in on
50 Like lesser sins
51 Uses a sieve
52 Boise's state
53 Reinvigorate
54 Estate home
56 Ice cream treat
57 Resound
58 Small store
59 Looks at
62 Decompose

New York City marks Intl. Women's Day with march



People walk in the International Women's Day march for gender equality and women's rights from the United Nations to Times Square, Sunday, March 8, 2015 in New York.

Associated Press

VERENA DOBNIK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Thousands of men and women from around the world gathered Sunday outside the United Nations to mark International Women's Day with a march to Times Square, joining voices globally demanding gender equity.

They convened to speak up for the gender that traditionally is paid less for work and often has a smaller voice in policy decisions.

U.N. officials say much has been achieved under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, signed by 189 governments in 1995 as a pledge for realizing women's rights. But U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the marchers that in the 20 years since the Beijing Declaration, "progress has been too slow, uneven."

"We have to fully respect and use the potential of all of our women," Ban said. He has said the most urgent issue is rape being used as a war weapon, from Nigeria and Somalia to Iraq and Syria.

Speakers at the U.N. gathering before the march included Nobel prize winner Leymah Roberta Gbowee, a peace activist from Liberia. □

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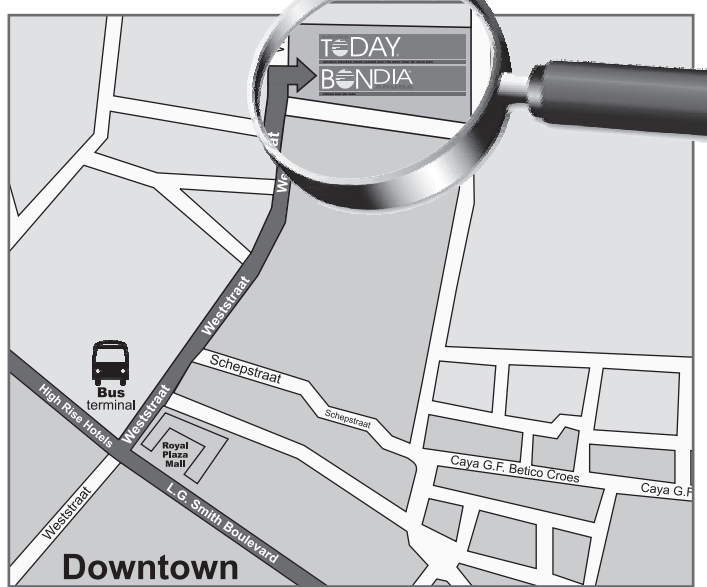
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Bubbles from glacier ice turn up the noise in Alaska fjords

DAN JOLING

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Glaciologist Erin Pettit began a research project to find out what humpback whales heard when a big piece of ice falls from a glacier and crashes into the ocean. But the sound generated by ice drifting in the water turned out to be just as interesting.

Acoustic research in Alaska's Icy Bay and other glacier ice-filled waters found that the fizz created by the release of pressurized air bubbles within glacier ice makes fjords the noisiest places in the ocean.

"The glacier fjord sound on a typical day for Icy Bay is louder than being in the water beneath a torrential downpour, which really surprised me," said Pettit, a researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

In a paper published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, a journal of the American Geophysical Union, Pettit and fellow researchers speculate that one reason harbor seals flock to fjords with tidewater glaciers is because noisy icebergs provide acoustic camouflage, protecting seals from transient killer whales that hunt by sound.

In July 2009, the researchers deployed underwater



In this photo taken May 14, 2009 and provided by the University of Washington, is the deployment of a hydrophone in Icy Bay, Alaska. **Associated Press**

microphones 70 meters (230 feet) deep in Icy Bay, a fjord near the top of the Alaska Panhandle just 4 miles (6.5 kilometers) from 18,008-foot (5,500-meter) Mount St. Elias. They also sampled sound at nearby Yakutat Bay and at Andvord Bay in Antarctica.

Researcher Jeff Nystuen of the University of Washington's Applied Physics Laboratory, who had had used hydrophones

to measure the underwater sound of rainfall, quickly realized the significance of the sound collected in the fjords, Pettit said.

"He was kind of blown away when I showed him the results of our data set," she said. "He's like, 'This is really, really loud.'" Colleagues at the University of Texas at Austin conducted laboratory tests in acoustic tanks with Alaska glacier ice

to find out how bubbles make noise. They recorded air bubbles making a bloop, tick or pop sound as they separated from ice, a sound that lasts 10 milliseconds or less.

"The bubble rising through the water is relatively silent," Pettit said. "The bubble hitting the surface is also relatively silent."

The snow compressing to ice on a glacier creates bubbles of nearly

the same size under the same pressure, Pettit said. That makes for consistent sound underwater.

"In terms of our hearing, the range of those notes is kind of that area that's on the upper half of the piano," she said. "It's centered about three-quarters of the way up to the high end of a piano." In general, "It's kind of a combination of a babbling brook and a hissing sound," she said. □

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Sean Penn has “no apologies” for immigration joke at Oscars

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, California
(AP) — Sean Penn opened

up about the immigration joke heard ‘round the world on Saturday in Beverly Hills during a promotional tour for his new film “The Gunman,” saying that he has “absolutely no apologies” for his comment. The actor-director also offered up choice words for those who didn’t recognize the irony in his remarks.

On Feb. 22 at the 87th Academy Awards, Penn, tasked with presenting the best picture award, made waves when he opened the envelope and first asked “Who gave this son of a bitch his green card?” before announcing the winner as “Birdman.”

Directed by the Mexican-born Alejandro Iñárritu, many wondered whether the joke was distasteful. The term “green card” refers to a document that confers

permanent residency on immigrants in the United States. “I found it hilarious,” Iñárritu said after the ceremony. “Sean and I have that kind of brutal (relationship) where only true friendship can survive.”

Iñárritu directed Penn in the 2003 film “21 Grams,” and the two remain close to this date. “I make on him a lot of very tough jokes that I will not tell you,” Iñárritu added.

While Iñárritu’s casual dismissal of any perceived offense helped to temper the public response to the comment, Penn has remained largely silent on the topic. “I’m always surprised by flagrant stupidity. I keep having more hope,” said Penn of the widespread outrage that followed the moment.

“The fact is that I understand it. I see it all the time. When somebody sees the opportunity to frame something in the comfort that it



In this Feb. 22, 2015 file photo, presenter Sean Penn, left, and filmmaker Alejandro Iñárritu pose in the press room after winning multiple awards including best original screenplay, best director and best picture for “Birdman: Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance),” at the Oscars in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

will be common—that they can do that and they can get a group to look at them and that they will take on those positions and never really think about what it was,” he added.

“I have absolutely no apol-

ogies,” Penn said with calm resolve.

“In fact, I have a big (expletive) you for every ... anybody who is so stupid not to have gotten the irony when you’ve got a country that is so xenophobic,” he

said. “If they had their way, you wouldn’t have great filmmakers like Alejandro working in this country. Thank God we do.”

Penn also clarified that the order of his comments were intentional. □

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

'Chappie' tops slow weekend, 'Unfinished Business' tanks

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Neither a hyper intelligent robot nor Vince Vaughn could save the North American box office this weekend, which is down 38.5 percent from the same weekend last year according to Sunday estimates from box office firm Rentrak.

While Neill Blomkamp's R-rated "Chappie" might have taken the No. 1 spot in its 3,201 theater debut, its modest \$13.3 million gross is hardly anything to celebrate.

It's a career low for Blomkamp, whose previous films "Elysium" and "District 9" debuted at \$29.8 and \$37.4 million, respectively. Distributor Sony remains optimistic about its \$49 million film starring Hugh Jackman about a police robot (voiced by Sharlto Copley) who learns how to think and feel.

"It certainly opened in our realm of expectations for

it for the weekend," said Rory Bruer, Sony's President of Worldwide Distribution. He noted that the 60 percent male and 57 percent under-30 demographic breakdown was good for



This image released by Columbia Pictures shows Dev Patel in a scene from "Chappie."

Associated Press

the film.

Sony and its subsidiaries have released all three of Blomkamp's films.

"I certainly believe, like Neill's other movies, that it's going to have a really strong multiple and we're going to come out fine on the movie," Bruer said.

The R-rated Vince Vaughn

comedy "Unfinished Business" fared even worse, opening at No. 10 to a dismal \$4.8 million. The \$35 million film about a chaotic European business trip also stars Dave Franco and Tom

Wilkinson.

In its second weekend in theaters, Will Smith's "Focus" fell an estimated 46 percent to take second place with \$10 million, bringing its domestic total to \$34.6 million.

"These are not exactly world class numbers," said Paul Dergarabedian, Rent-

rak's senior media analyst. "This is two weekends in a row where we've seen original R-rated movies just not resonate with audiences with "Focus" last weekend and "Chappie" this weekend," he said.

One bright spot was Fox Searchlight's retiree comedy "The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," which opened in third place with a strong \$8.6 million from 1,573 locations.

"It's one of the very rare instances of an indie sequel. You normally don't see that," said Dergarabedian. The PG-rated film, which reunites Judi Dench, Maggie Smith and Bill Nighy, will be expanding to about 1,800 screens next weekend.

The first film was somewhat

of a sleeper hit in 2012, grossing \$46.4 million domestically on a budget of \$10 million.

Holdovers "Kingsman: The Secret Service" and "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water," rounded out the top five with \$8.3 million and \$7 million, respectively.

"This is the proverbial calm before the storm. We're still on track for a massive, record-breaking year. But there are going to be a lot of casualties along the way and we're seeing that right now," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. □

Cate Blanchett adopts baby girl with husband Andrew Upton



Cate Blanchett arrives at the Premiere Of "Cinderella" on Sunday, March 1, 2015, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cate Blanchett is expanding her family.

A spokeswoman for the actress said Friday that Blanchett and husband Andrew Upton have adopted a baby girl.

Edith Vivian Patricia Upton joins the couple's three sons, ages 6, 10 and 13.

Publicist Stephanie Gonzalez said no other details will be provided.

Blanchett can next be seen on the big screen in Disney's "Cinderella."

The 45-year-old actress won her second Academy Award last year: best actress for "Blue Jasmine." □

Carrie no longer CIA officer in next season of 'Homeland'



Claire Danes arrives at the 32nd Annual Paleyfest Opening Night Presentation: "Homeland" held at the The Dolby Theatre on Friday, March 6, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Time will fly between the fourth and fifth season of the Showtime spy drama "Homeland," the series' executive producer Alex Gansa said.

"We're going to take about a two-year forward jump," Gansa said Friday at the

opening night of PaleyFest, the annual TV celebration at the Dolby Theatre.

On the purple carpet, Gansa said the next "Homeland" season will be filmed in Europe, most likely in Berlin. He said the setting would be Germany.

The fourth season of "Homeland" was shot in Cape Town, South Africa,

which doubled for Islamabad and Kabul.

Gansa later told the PaleyFest audience that CIA officer Carrie Mathison, played by series star Claire Danes, will no longer be an intelligence officer.

Many of the "Homeland" crew members said the fourth season was critical to the series, given the death of the character of Brody, portrayed by Damian Lewis, on the third season. So the show got a "reboot," said director Lesli Linka Glatter, referring to the fourth season's new plot direction and darker-than-ever twists.

Showtime renewed the show for a fifth season in November. "Homeland" was adapted from an Israeli TV series "Hatufim" ("Abductees").

PaleyFest organizers said about 20,000 fans were expected over the course of the 10-day festival. □



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